

Untitled Shonda Rhimes Project (2010)

by Shonda Rhimes

Untitled Shonda Rhimes Pilot (2010)

"Sweet Baby"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 INT. BAR - NIGHT

1

A Washington DC bar. Upscale. Young and intense in that way that means everyone is holding a martini and scanning the room for people more important than they are. It's not drinks, it's a competition. And the winner is HARRISON (late 20s). At least, he ACTS like the winner. Right now, he's at a table, drink in hand. QUINN (20s) comes in. Quinn hates the fact that people assume that because she is pretty, she is not smart. Because she is. Smart.

QUINN  
Harrison Jones?

HARRISON  
Quinn Rielly.

QUINN  
I can't stay.

HARRISON  
What are you drinking?

QUINN  
I can't stay. I'm sorry. I only came because Lori said she didn't have your number and couldn't cancel and I didn't want you to be waiting here because getting stood up in this particular bar is like falling face down on a runway and even though I don't know you, Lori's got this annoying habit of meddling and it seemed only decent to-

HARRISON  
What are you drinking?

QUINN  
I can't stay, is what I am saying.  
I don't do blind dates.

HARRISON  
My parents met on a blind date.  
Been inseparable ever since.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

QUINN

I'm happy for your parents. And for you because it means you exist. But I-

HARRISON

This isn't a blind date.

QUINN

What?

HARRISON

It's a job interview. What are you drinking?

He's flagged down a waiter. Quinn hesitates, then sits.

QUINN

Dirty martini. -- What do you mean this is a job interview?

Harrison waits until the waiter goes then turns back to Quinn.

HARRISON

This is a job interview.

QUINN

You're a baby lawyer. You're 12 years old.

HARRISON

I'm 28 years old.

QUINN

Why aren't we sitting in an office in a law firm?

HARRISON

Because that's not how we do job interviews.

QUINN

I didn't apply for a job with you.

HARRISON

You did.

QUINN

I didn't.

HARRISON

You did.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

Quinn stands. She's no longer amused.

QUINN

Okay, you know what? This has been...whatever, but I don't do blind dates so-

HARRISON

Ask me who I work for.

QUINN

What?

HARRISON

You really wanna ask me who I work for.

QUINN

Fine. Who do you work for?

HARRISON

Olivia Price.

Quinn sits back down. Stunned.

QUINN

Olivia Price? THE Olivia Price?  
(glee to insanity to  
despair)

Wait. Shut up. Wait.

(don't fuck with me)

Is this some kind of ploy to make me stay on this date?

Harrison reels in his fish.

HARRISON

Quinn, this is not a blind date. On blind dates, I like to buy a woman dinner because it makes her more likely to either sleep with me or give me a second date. When I buy you dinner, you'll know I'm interested. You did apply for a job with me. The way I know you applied for a job with me is that I have your resume on my iPad. The way I know you would kill puppies to get this job is that you stopped breathing when I said the name Olivia Price.

(MORE)

1 CONTINUED: (3)

1

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Which is a tell, your tell, and you should look at that because I'm going to offer you a crap salary and you'll have to take it because you never learned to breathe in and out without stopping. But don't feel bad about it because we all get paid crap salaries because we're the good guys. I'm a good guy which means I don't generally lie but I did to you. This is not a job interview.

QUINN

Wait. I don't...I'm confused.

HARRISON

Olivia already told me to hire you. The job is yours. If you want it. It's the best job you'll ever have. You will change lives, you will slay dragons, you will love the hunt more than you ever dreamed. Because Olivia Price is as amazing as they say. And I am not a baby lawyer, I am a gladiator in a suit. Because that's what you are when you work for Olivia. A gladiator in a suit. You wanna be a gladiator in a suit?

His enthusiasm is mesmerizing. And true. Quinn nods.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

You gotta say it.

And Quinn takes a deep breath...

QUINN

I wanna be a gladiator in a suit.

TITLE CARD.

2 EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT - NIGHT

2

It's dirty and abandoned down here. An SUV pulls up and OLIVIA (30s) steps out. Stylish but weary, too smart for her own good. People tend to underestimate her. That's a mistake. STEPHEN (30s) is waiting for her. STEPHEN's handsome and male and brilliant in a way that makes you worried you'll do something inappropriate like lick him. The minute she's out of the car, they head for the warehouse. All business, intense.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

OLIVIA

How many guys in the room?

STEPHEN

Just the two of them. Two insane morons.

OLIVIA

Hey, did you propose? Weren't you going to ask her marry you tonight?

STEPHEN

I was doing this tonight.

OLIVIA

So you bailed. -- Did you give them the money?

STEPHEN

Yes. Which is when the problem started. -- And I did not bail. I'm working. For you.

OLIVIA

Did you at least buy the engagement ring?

STEPHEN

Olivia. What's going on in that warehouse? Is not good. Is, in fact, the opposite of good. So bugging me about proposing to my girlfriend? Not on point. There's a situation in there. Focus. Do what you do.

A beat.

OLIVIA

You really should have proposed...

And Olivia and Stephen swing into the warehouse...

3 INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

3

Where two men in expensive suits stand. They look like businessmen. Or stockbrokers. Except for the fact that they are currently holding guns on one another. Let's call them OSKAR (40s) and VLAD (50s). They're Russian, nervous; there's a basket and an ENORMOUS pile of money wrapped in neat stacks on the table. Even so, Olivia is calm, confident.

3

CONTINUED:

3

OLIVIA

Is there some way I can expedite the proceedings, gentlemen?

OSKAR

I'm gonna kill him! I swear to God, I'll blow his brains on the carpet!

VLAD

Not if I shoot you first!

OLIVIA

No one is shooting anyone. Put the guns down.

VLAD

He puts down his, I'll put down mine.

OLIVIA

Oskar, that's your name? Oskar, put your gun down.

OSKAR

So he can shoot me? Hell no.

Olivia looks Stephen. Sighs. Then she steps between the two men. So that both guns are now pointed directly at her.

OLIVIA

Okay? Now the only person who gets shot is me.

STEPHEN

Liv-

OLIVIA

Stephen. I have this.  
(to Oskar and Vlad)  
Now, guns down.

But neither man moves.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Okay. What seems to be the problem?

OSKAR

He's gonna blow me on the deal.

OLIVIA

Vlad, are you gonna blow Oskar?

VLAD

...No...

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

OLIVIA

Vlad?

VLAD

I wanted us to go 50/50. He wants  
70/30. I did all the work!

OLIVIA

Oskar, will you consider 60/40 if  
Vlad promises not to blow you?

Oskar thinks. Then:

OSKAR

I keep the car.

OLIVIA

What car? You know what, forget I  
asked. I don't need to know. Vlad,  
can Oskar keep the car?

VLAD

I suppose that's okay. Yes.

OLIVIA

So no one blows anyone, we have a  
60/40 split and Oskar keeps the car.  
Any other deal points either of you  
would like to negotiate at this time?

VLAD/OSKAR

No. /I'm good.

OLIVIA

Guns down. GUNS DOWN.

Reluctantly, Vlad and Oskar lower their guns.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Now shake hands.

They look at her. Is she fucking kidding them?

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

We have a verbal contract. Shake  
hands to seal the deal. Do it. Go  
on.

And reluctant, Oskar and Vlad step forward and shake hands.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Good boys.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



3 CONTINUED: (3)

3

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Now I'm gonna take what we paid for  
and I'm going to go. I do not want  
to hear any gunfire when I leave  
this building, is that clear?

They nod. Olivia steps forward, gently picks up the basket.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

It was a pleasure doing business  
with you. I thank you. My client  
thank you. I hope to never see you  
again.

And she and Stephen back out the door with the basket.

4 EXT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

4

Stephen and Olivia head for their cars with the basket.

STEPHEN

God, I love this job.

5 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES LOBBY - NIGHT

5

The office is small but elegant. A lot of steel and glass.  
We can see the Washington Monument through the window.  
Harrison and Quinn step off the elevator.

QUINN

Do I look okay?

HARRISON

Your skirt is too short. Olivia  
will talk about you. Just take it  
in.

QUINN

Are you sure she's even here? It's  
after midnight.

HARRISON

She's here. She's always here.

They round a corner and inside the glass walls of the  
conference room, Olivia, Stephen and ABBY (30s) are visible.  
They're eating Chinese food, Olivia's sitting on the table,  
shoes kicked off, the basket beside her. ABBY is round and  
warm and bubbly, the kind of woman who has cats and knits  
things. But don't get too comfortable -- she'll stab you  
with her knitting needle if you fuck with her.

5 CONTINUED:

5

HARRISON (CONT'D)

That's Stephen and that's Abby.  
He's a litigator, she's an  
investigator. And that's...

QUINN

Olivia Price.  
(awestruck)  
She's taller on TV.

Which makes no sense because Olivia is sitting down. But  
Quinn's a little overwhelmed...

QUINN (CONT'D)

Wait. Why did she wanna hire me?

HARRISON

Business is growing, we needed another  
smart set of hands.

QUINN

No. I mean, me?

HARRISON

Come on.

6 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

6

Olivia has one hand inside the basket. We can't see why.

OLIVIA

I'm not doing it.

ABBY

Well, I'm not doing it either.

STEPHEN

Whoa. Don't look at me.

Harrison and Quinn enter.

HARRISON

How'd it go?

OLIVIA

We gave them three million, they  
gave us the package.

STEPHEN

Two guns to her head, the woman  
doesn't flinch.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

ABBY

We're just waiting for pick up.

HARRISON

Nice.

OLIVIA

Your skirt is too short.

She's looking at Quinn.

QUINN

I'm sorry...um...ma'am...I didn't know I was coming here...

OLIVIA

She took the job?

HARRISON

She took the job.

QUINN

Ms. Price, can I just say, I'm a huge fan, I so admire your work in the White House, it's an honor to work for your law firm.

She's nervous, gushing.

OLIVIA

We're not a law firm. We're lawyers but this is not a law firm.

STEPHEN

Law firms are for pansies.

OLIVIA

We...solve problems. Manage crises.

QUINN

Of course. Right. Still...an honor.

OLIVIA

Harrison feed you a line about being a gladiator in a suit?

HARRISON

Liv...

QUINN

He did. And I'm ready. To gladiate. Or...whatever.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

Olivia reaches into the basket. And pulls out a baby. An actual live baby. Holds it like a grenade.

OLIVIA

You know how to gladiate a diaper change?

Quinn stares at the baby, stunned. Then the elevator dings and three Arab men in suits rush in followed by a MAN IN A TURBAN and his modestly dressed WIFE. When she sees the baby...

WIFE

AHMAD!

She's crying, moving forward, pulling the baby from Olivia's hands into her arms. The Man in a Turban turns to Olivia.

MAN

Thank you, thank you. When the kidnapers took him, I thought...but you've returned my son to me. Thank you.

And he pulls her in for a hug. One of the men in suits discreetly hands Stephen a check. He checks the amount, smiles. The man in the turban is still hugging Olivia.

MAN (CONT'D)

Anything I can do for you. Anything.

STEPHEN

If you have a second child, Olivia is a beautiful name.

OLIVIA

Stephen. -- Mr. Ambassador, you can take your son back to your consulate and keep him safe. And you can never tell anyone about this. Ever. The FBI is sick of me.

MAN

Of course. Thank you, thank you.

And they go. Passing HUCK (20s), the lone paralegal, as he comes in.

HUCK

Liv, I've got incoming.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

STEPHEN

It's after midnight. Take a phone number.

HUCK

Not on the phone. Here. And you wanna talk to him.

Olivia heads out. Everyone follows her.

7 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

7

Olivia and the others enter. There's a MAN (32) there. Handsome and charismatic in a John Edwards way. His left arm doesn't work -- a war injury that only makes him seem more heroic. Right now, though, his shirt and part of his face are covered in blood. He eyes them panicked and lost.

MAN

I'm...I didn't know where else to go. I had a friend...he recommended you.

OLIVIA

You're Sully Sinclair.

He nods. Stephen leans in to Abby and whispers.

STEPHEN

Who's Sully Sinclair?

ABBY

The war hero. The Iraqi Attacker?

And Stephen nods. Recognizing him.

SULLY

You gotta help me. Somebody has to help me. Please...

(devastated)

My girlfriend. She's dead. And the police think I killed her.

Harrison leans over to Quinn.

HARRISON

Welcome to Price and Associates.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

8 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES CORRIDOR - DAY

8

Through the glass we can see Sully sitting in the conference room. Someone's given him a towel and he uses it to wipe the blood from his face. Outside the glass, Harrison, Stephen, Quinn and Olivia watch him. Abby arrives, hands out a sheath of papers.

ABBY

Lieutenant Colonel Sullivan "Sully" Sinclair, age 32, did two tours in Iraq, was injured saving the lives of his entire unit. A war hero.

STEPHEN

And not just any war hero. The first living person ever to receive a Congressional Medal of Honor from the President for action in any war since Vietnam.

ABBY

A famous war hero. Working class, patriotic, comes from a long line of soldiers. Here he is on the cover of Time magazine.

She passes the page forward. Olivia looks at it.

OLIVIA

Poster boy for the military.

ABBY

And for the conservative right. That's how he makes his living. He gives expensive speeches. Makes a fortune. He's anti-choice, pro-gun, hates the gays and likes it when kids pray in school.

STEPHEN

Abby-

ABBY

I'm just saying he sickens me politically, I'm not saying we shouldn't help him. From what I could find, Sully's a straight shooter, no dirty laundry.

OLIVIA

Everybody has secrets.

STEPHEN

He's not showing any.

HARRISON

Who's the dead girlfriend?

Abby hands Olivia a photo. The dead girl smiles out at us, happier times.

ABBY

Paige Montgomery, 27.

OLIVIA

Well, she's got a silver spoon in her mouth.

QUINN

How can you tell?

OLIVIA

Her teeth. They're capped.

HARRISON

Rich kids get their teeth fixed.

And Quinn subtly puts a hand up to check her teeth. Olivia clocks it. No one else notices. But we do. Huck arrives.

HUCK

It's on the police scanners. Girl was found dead in her apartment, three shots to the head. Sully called 911 but took off before the police arrived.

HARRISON

Three? That's not an accident.

Quinn raises her hand. They look at her.

QUINN

What do we...can I ask? What do we do? I mean, if we aren't defense attorneys, we're not the District Attorney, it looks like he did it so...what do we do? What CAN we do?

OLIVIA

Everything and anything. First...

8 CONTINUED: (2) 8

Olivia looks in at Sully...

9 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT 9

Our team (Olivia, Abby, Stephen, Quinn, and Harrison) are with Sully. Stephen paces the room -- he's not a sitter. Quinn follows Harrison's lead and takes notes.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

We interview Sully.

Sully's emotional, trying for composure.

SULLY

I was gonna propose. We were gonna get married. She was...Paige was everything to me...she was my best friend...

OLIVIA (V.O.)

We listen to him. We watch him. In this moment, we are the judge and we are the jury. This is the moment when we decide who he is.

Quinn's watching, moved. But everyone else is just watching.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Did you kill her?

SULLY

No! No, I would never...I loved her.

HARRISON

Where'd the blood come from?

SULLY

I went to her apartment. I...I found her like that. I held her. She was...there was so much blood. I called the police. And I was waiting for them and then I just...I don't know, I panicked. I'm on TV, you know? I didn't know what to...I thought they would think I did it. I panicked...I'm sorry, I should know how to handle this, I should be better at this...

STEPHEN

Where were you?



9

CONTINUED:

9

SULLY

Sir?

STEPHEN

Where were you? During the murder?

SULLY

I was...I don't sleep good. After the war...my arm hurts, I don't wanna take pills...so I walk at night. Around the neighborhood. I was walking. I stopped in at Matty's Pub, had a beer. Kept walking. Then I went to see Paige...

ABBY

Do you own a handgun?

SULLY

A Barretta 22. It's in the shed behind my house. I keep it in a lockbox.

HARRISON

I'm going to need the key.

Sully nods.

SULLY

I never even thought...she's gone, she's really gone...Oh God...

Olivia, Abby, Stephen and Harrison exchange looks, weighing this.

10

INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES CORRIDOR - NIGHT

10

The team huddles. Olivia, Harrison, Stephen, Quinn and Abby.

OLIVIA

Clock is ticking. Let's vote.

STEPHEN

I'm not voting.

ABBY

Stephen-

STEPHEN

I'm not voting. Liv always overrules us anyway. She knows what I think. The guy's a fugitive covered in blood. He did it.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

HARRISON

I don't think he did it. He's a soldier, a government issue trained killing machine, he'd have to be an idiot to get her blood all over himself, to call 911 and then run. But I still vote no. The press is gonna eat this up. By dawn, the headline's gonna be Iraqi Attacker attacks Society Girl.

Quinn watches, it's all moving so fast. Olivia turns to Abby.

ABBY

I don't wanna take it because it's too messy, too much work. And I hate Republicans.

Olivia stares in at Sully. Shaking, covered in blood, lost.

OLIVIA

I vote we take it.

ABBY

Liv...

STEPHEN

Come on!

And Olivia hesitates but she's looking at Sully and he's starting to cry so...

OLIVIA

My gut says he's innocent. We're taking the case.

Stephen throws up his hands. Exasperated.

STEPHEN

Which is why I don't like to vote!

Stephen glares at Olivia. She snuggles into him, plants a kiss on his cheek. Soothing him.

OLIVIA

You're pretty and smart...so pretty, so smart...

And Stephen gives in because, yeah, he's pretty and smart.

OLIVIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Next I set the rules.

11 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT 11

Olivia looks at Sully. Intense.

OLIVIA

Okay. We're going to get you some clean clothes and put you in Harrison's office. You are to stay there. Do not make any phone calls. Not to work, not to friends, not to press. No one. No talking. This is on us now. Your job is to stay in that office and let us do our job.

OLIVIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Then I warn them. I always warn them.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I have one rule. Do not lie. Not to me or to anyone who works for me. You lie, all bets are off. Got it?

Sully nods.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Now, is there anything you wanna tell me? Anything at all. Because now's your chance.

Sully ducks his head. And we wait, nervous. But when he raises his head, we see that his face is streaked with tears.

SULLY

I didn't kill her. She was my best friend. I loved her.

OLIVIA

Sully? It's never going to be okay. She's dead and there's nothing I can do about that. And I'm sorry for your loss. But the rest? I can fix the rest.

Olivia puts out her hand, takes Sully's. Full of compassion.

OLIVIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Then we go to work...

12 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES LOBBY - NIGHT 12

Huck sleeps, face down on the sofa. Stephen comes out. Stands over Huck, claps his hands loudly, startling him awake.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 12

STEPHEN  
We need the war room.

13 INT. HARRISON'S OFFICE - NIGHT 13

Abby shows Sully into the office. Closes the door behind him. Sully looks at the stack of folded clothes on the desk, sinks down on to the sofa. Lost.

14 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES OFFICE - NIGHT 14

Huck turns the lights on in a small office. Eyes the desk.

15 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES CORRIDOR - NIGHT 15

Quinn stands in the hallway, watches as Huck shoves the desk into the hall. Harrison comes towards her.

QUINN  
That's the war room?

HARRISON  
Technically, it's your office. But yes, it's the war room.

Harrison, not missing a beat, slides over the top of the desk, goes into the office, carrying office supplies.

16 INT. APARTMENT BUILDING CORRIDOR - NIGHT 16

A police investigation is in progress, cops coming in and out of one of the apartments. Abby approaches homicide detective WALLY. Cheerful.

ABBY  
Hey Wally. Body still here or did the morgue take it already?

WALLY  
Go home. I'm not telling you a thing.

ABBY  
You don't have to. I'll just take a quick peek at the crime scene.

WALLY  
Not on my watch.

ABBY  
How's your wife, Wally? She's what, six months pregnant? Does she know about the stripper?

16 CONTINUED:

16

WALLY

You're a real bitch, you know that?

ABBY

I do know that, Wally.

Wally sighs. Abby beams, sweet.

17 EXT. VIRGINIA HOUSE - NIGHT

17

A middle class house in Virginia. Olivia rings the doorbell. Insistent. Never stopping until it is yanked open. DAVID (40s) glares at her, bleary-eyed.

DAVID

Why am I not surprised that you're on this?

OLIVIA

You have to give me 48 hours before you arrest or charge Sully Sinclair.

DAVID

I was sleeping.

OLIVIA

The US Attorney's Office never sleeps. You told me that once.

DAVID

I was being ironic.

OLIVIA

48 hours before you arrest or charge.

DAVID

Olivia, you don't have the muscle of the White House behind you anymore. You're just a private citizen who is, by the way, annoying-

OLIVIA

He's a decorated war hero. He's a patriot. You realize the blowback you'll get for rushing to judgment on a patriot?

DAVID

The blowback you'll create?

OLIVIA

Well...yes. That's my job.

17 CONTINUED:

17

DAVID

Do you actually have the naive belief that waking me up in the middle of the night and threatening me is the correct path to getting your way?

OLIVIA

I wasn't threatening you. He didn't kill her. My gut says he didn't.

DAVID

Your Spidey senses aren't evidence. I've been on the phone with Homicide. He killed her and ran.

OLIVIA

48 hours before you arrest or charge.

He starts to shut the door. Olivia wedges her body in the door's path, keeping it open.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I can have a reporter out here in 20 minutes. With cameras. Asking why you are persecuting an innocent, handicapped, Congressional Medal of Honor winner. Perhaps because he's a well-known conservative Republican and you are considering a bid on the Democratic ticket next year?

(beat)

Just to be clear? That? Was me threatening you.

A beat. David eyes her.

DAVID

You have until morning.

OLIVIA

36 hours.

DAVID

18 hours.

OLIVIA

Sold. Pleasure to see you again.

She's already heading away. David stares after her.

18 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES OFFICE - NIGHT

18

Harrison and Quinn begin to pin pieces of paper to the walls. Photos of Paige and Sully. Web articles about Sully.

QUINN

So you guys don't have secretaries or assistants or anything? It's just...you guys?

HARRISON

Secretaries and assistants have friends who are also secretaries and assistants. They talk. We? Don't talk. To anyone.

Olivia moves past the door. Calling out.

OLIVIA

We have 18 hours!

19 INT. WASHINGTON DC MORGUE - NIGHT

19

Stephen enters. Smiles at LISA, who works the front desk. She doesn't smile back.

STEPHEN

Lisa...

LISA

No.

STEPHEN

Lisa...

LISA

NO. You didn't call me.

STEPHEN

I'm an ass.

LISA

Who slept with me and didn't call me.

STEPHEN

I need you to fast track an autopsy, slip me the report. Body just came in.

LISA

You didn't call me.

19 CONTINUED:

19

STEPHEN  
I'm getting married.

She pauses, surprised.

LISA  
You? You are getting married. You.

STEPHEN  
Her name is Georgia, she teaches 3rd grade. Which is why, as much as I'd like to, I can't do it with you in the freezer anymore.

LISA  
Look at that. He evolves.  
(beat, grudging)  
What's the name?

STEPHEN  
Paige Montgomery.

20 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES OFFICE - NIGHT

20

Harrison and Quinn pin up photos from the autopsy, copies of the report.

QUINN  
So I read you guys don't try cases?  
You don't go to court?

HARRISON  
If we do our job right, we never need to go to court. Look, the reason we're not a law firm? We don't have to play within the rules of the law. We're fixers, crisis managers. We make the problems of our clients go away. Big or small. It's not about solving some crime. It's not about justice. It's about our client.

21 INT. PAIGE'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

21

As cops swirl around the crime scene, Abby stands in the center of the room. Pulls out her camera. Turns slowly, taking photos of every angle of the room. Clicking, clicking, clicking on the patch of blood on the living room floor.

22 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES OFFICE - SUNRISE

22

Harrison and Quinn pin up Abby's crime scene photos.



22 CONTINUED:

22

QUINN

Is it true Olivia is close friends  
with the President?

HARRISON

You ask a lot of questions.

23 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY

23

Olivia's on the phone, pacing. Huck appears in the doorway.

HUCK

You want me to hack?

Olivia holds up a finger, telling him to wait.

OLIVIA

Kevin, I'm not saying don't write  
your article. I'm saying he's a  
decorated war hero who loved his  
girlfriend and maybe you can wait to  
say he did it until there's an arrest.  
I'm saying the autopsy report doesn't  
tell us anything except that she was  
shot three times so it would be  
overzealous to describe this as a  
crime of passion. I'm not gonna  
tell you how to do your job, you're  
brilliant, I'm just saying. -- I'll  
give you first bite at an interview  
when we're ready. -- Okay. you.

She hangs up. Looks at Huck.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Hack.

Huck takes off. Olivia dials the phone again.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Maureen. Hi, it's Olivia. No, I  
haven't called him yet. No, no, he  
seems like a nice guy and I appreciate  
you trying to fix me up, it's just...  
Listen. I know you're working up a  
story on the Paige Montgomery murder  
and I have some thoughts...

24 INT. SHED BEHIND SULLY'S HOUSE - DAY

24

Stephen enters. Searches the shelves. Finds a lockbox.  
Tries to use a key to open it but the lock is broken. So he  
just opens it. It's empty.

25 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES/HARRISON'S OFFICE - DAY 25

Olivia and Stephen stand over a shocked Sully.

SULLY

How can it be missing? It was in the lockbox. Oh my God, it looks like I...I have to get out of here.

OLIVIA

The lock was broken, your shed's not secure, it could have been stolen. But Sully? Look at me.

He does. So she can stare him in the face.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Did you kill her?

SULLY

No. I swear.

A beat. And Olivia nods.

OLIVIA

Okay.

And they leave.

26 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES OFFICE - DAY 26

The wall is slowly filling. Huck enters, papers in hand.

HUCK

I hacked her Facebook, I'm working on her email. I hate Google. It's like a wall with razors at the top. I gotta get over it without losing a finger.

He hands over the papers and goes. Harrison and Quinn pin those to the wall.

QUINN

I'm not complaining. But we've been here since last night. Don't you guys ever sleep? Don't any you have wives, boyfriends, kids, lives...?

HARRISON

No.

26 CONTINUED:

26

QUINN

Oh.

HARRISON

Gladiators. In suits.

We watch as the wall is slowly filled. We time lapse and pull back to see Harrison, Quinn, Abby, Olivia and Stephen standing there. Olivia is staring at the completely filled wall, everyone else is staring at Olivia. Waiting. Then:

OLIVIA

We need more. We don't have anything.

HARRISON

We have everything. Sully did it.

STEPHEN

The guy's alibi is water, gun's conveniently missing, bloody clothes and he's a runner. He killed her.

ABBY

Definitely killed her.

OLIVIA

I'm not willing to concede. Not yet. We need more.

Olivia's iPhone beeps. She reads the text. Her face changes.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I have to step out. I'll be back.

She leaves. Quinn looks at everyone.

QUINN

So what happens now?

HARRISON

She wants more. We get more.

27 EXT. LAFAYETTE SQUARE PARK - DAY

27

Olivia walks through the park directly across from the White House. Reaches CYRUS (late 50s), his face betraying exhaustion in only the way someone who works too hard can. A few steps away, a man with an earpiece waits for Cyrus. Cyrus and Olivia have the ease of old comrades.

OLIVIA

What.

27 CONTINUED:

27

CYRUS

(chiding)

Hi. Hello. How are you.

OLIVIA

Hi, hello, how are you. What.

CYRUS

You working the Sully Sinclair thing?

OLIVIA

We're not going public, making no comments yet. I'm trying to see if I can stamp out the flames before it becomes a wildfire. If you guys could refrain from commenting...

CYRUS

We'll stay quiet. What's your gut say?

OLIVIA

He didn't do it.

CYRUS

Your gut's never wrong.

Olivia studies him. Gentle.

OLIVIA

You look tired. Too tired. What.

CYRUS

(reluctant)

He needs a favor.

And Olivia's face closes down. Not liking this.

OLIVIA

I don't work for him anymore.

CYRUS

He trusts you.

OLIVIA

I don't work for him anymore.

CYRUS

And yet you came when I called.

A beat. Then Olivia puts her arm through his, leans on him. Giving in. But guarded. Sorry for him, protecting herself.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

OLIVIA

What.

CYRUS

There's a girl, an aide. Going around saying she's sleeping with him.

OLIVIA

Is she?

CYRUS

Liv-

OLIVIA

Bill Clinton, Monica Lewinsky. John Edwards, Rielle Hunter. Is she?

CYRUS

No. You know him, he's not that guy...I need you to shut her down.

And we're on Olivia as she takes this in.

OLIVIA

I need to see him.

CYRUS

Liv, that's not possible-

OLIVIA

You want me to shut her down? Then I need to look him in the eye and know he's not lying.

CYRUS

He's not... Look, the man's schedule is insane. He has no time to see you.

Olivia hardens.

OLIVIA

He wants the favor, he wants my services, I don't work for him anymore. So you tell the President of the United States to make time.

And she walks away.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

28 EXT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

28

Olivia heads out of the building, a cup of takeout coffee in hand. Abby and Stephen follow her.

STEPHEN

You're going?

OLIVIA

I'm going.

STEPHEN

To Camp David.

OLIVIA

I won't be gone long.

STEPHEN

You're going to Camp David to meet with the President...why?

OLIVIA

Meeting in the White House is too official. Press is there.

ABBY

He wants you to take your old job back, doesn't he? He's wooing you.

OLIVIA

He's not wooing me. We're friends.

STEPHEN

You and I are friends. He's the leader of the free world. -- Your life makes me feel unsuccessful.

ABBY

You get weird. After you see him, you get weird. He makes you weird.

OLIVIA

He doesn't make me weird. We have less than 12 hours left on Sully Sinclair so stay on it, text me if anything happens. I'll be back soon.

Olivia reaches her car. Abby holds out her hand.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

No.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

ABBY

You know you're not allowed to have coffee in the car.

OLIVIA

I spilled once.

STEPHEN

That time in Dallas. That time in Boston. Election night. Ten minutes before you had to be on the dais to watch the *President of the United States take the oath of office...*

OLIVIA

Leave me alone.

Abby rolls her eyes.

ABBY

Same reason why no one's allowed to give you gum...

STEPHEN

Hey. Should I really do it?

And Abby keeps curiously quiet during the following:

OLIVIA

Yes.

STEPHEN

I'm talking about asking Georgia to marry me.

OLIVIA

Yes.

STEPHEN

Because I was thinking I'd buy a ring today but now with Sully...

OLIVIA

Stephen, do you want me to talk you into it or out of it?

STEPHEN

Into it. Out of it. No. Into it.

OLIVIA

Normal lives. That's the dream. You love her, she loves you. Normal people get married.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

STEPHEN

You won't even date.

OLIVIA

I said it's the dream, not the  
reality.

Quinn rounds the corner. Races to them. A little breathless.

QUINN

Huck finally managed to hack Paige's  
emails. I've been reading them and  
I think I found something. Paige  
sent an email to a friend, Ariel  
Masse. On the night of the murder,  
they were supposed to meet and attend  
an embassy party.

She's proud of herself. Until:

OLIVIA

So how come she didn't go?

QUINN

I...I don't know.

OLIVIA

Abby?

ABBY

I'll find out.

OLIVIA

(to Quinn)

Go away.

Disappointed to be dismissed, Quinn takes off.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

What do we think of her?

ABBY

Does she know why we hired her?

OLIVIA

Not yet.

STEPHEN

She's like a frightened bunny.

OLIVIA

Propose. Do. Not. Sleep with Quinn.

(CONTINUED)



28 CONTINUED: (3)

28

STEPHEN

I wasn't gonna.

He totally was. Olivia gets in her car.

29 INT. SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM - DAY

29

Abby talks to ARIEL MASSE (26), a museum docent.

ARIEL

Yeah, Paige and I had plans to go the French Consulate dinner. Usually she goes to those things with Sully but my father got me on the invite list and it was just a plus one so...

ABBY

What happened?

ARIEL

She called at the last minute and canceled. No big deal.

But Ariel's shifting back and forth, eager to get away.

ABBY

Ariel. Paige is dead. You know that. So if there's something you're not telling me...

Ariel hesitates.

ARIEL

You have to get this. Understand it. Paige loved Sully. She used to be, we both used to be, you know, party girls. Always out, always with a different guy. We did stuff. Drugs. But then Paige met Sully and she just...settled down with him. It made her family really happy. They were amazing together...  
(emotional, crying)  
I just can't believe she's dead.

ABBY

Ariel, you can cry. That's understandable. But it's not going to make me go away. What aren't you telling me?

Off Ariel...

30 EXT. CAMP DAVID - DAY

30

Two MARINES stand guard at the gates of Camp David. Olivia's SUV pulls up. She rolls down her window.

OLIVIA

Olivia Price.

She gets out. Hands one Marine her driver's license. Pops the back of the SUV so the other Marine can search her car and peer under it with one of those mirrors on a pole thingies they use. There's a conspicuous coffee stain on her blouse. She takes off her blouse, puts her suit jacket on over just her bra. Looks at the Marine who eyes her, confused.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I spilled.

31 INT. CAMP DAVID MAIN HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

31

Olivia is shown in by an aide. Cyrus is waiting.

OLIVIA

Hi, hello, how are you.

They share a grin.

CYRUS

Better. They're here, they'll be out in a moment.

OLIVIA

The First Lady came too? She knows about this?

CYRUS

It's not like during the Election, Liv. The rigors of the White House have bonded them, the marriage is stronger than ever.

And then MELLIE GRANT (50s) enters the room. Mellie's everything we'd want in a First Lady -- warm, strong and funny. Casual in capris and a sweater. The every woman.

MELLIE

Liv!

OLIVIA

Mellie.

They hug. They genuinely like one another.

31 CONTINUED:

31

MELLIE

You never call, you never write...

OLIVIA

You're a little busy. How're the kids?

MELLIE

Scott's adjusting to White House life pretty good, got all A's last semester. Karen...she misses her friends, hates the Secret Service. How are you? Are you dating anybody? Because there's a guy over at the Council's that I think you would hit it off with...

OLIVIA

I'm good. Really. Thanks.

And then her attention is diverted because PRESIDENT FITZGERALD GRANT (50s) is striding into the room. Fitz is handsome, charismatic, brilliant and humble. Kennedy-esque. We like him immediately.

FITZ

Livvie.

OLIVIA

Mr. President.

And under the watchful eyes of Mellie and Cyrus, they shake hands. Warm but formal.

32 EXT. CAMP DAVID - DAY

32

Fitz, Cyrus and Olivia stroll the grounds, two Secret Service agents following not far behind.

FITZ

I can't thank you enough for taking this on.

Cyrus hands Olivia a packet of papers.

CYRUS

Her name is Julia Tannen. She's 27. And she's speaking to anyone in the West Wing who'll listen.

OLIVIA

And you can't fire her.

32

CONTINUED:

32

CYRUS

Not without a nightmare on our hands.  
Look, she's yet to go the press.  
I'd like to put a stop to it before  
she does.

FITZ

It's not right. It makes me look  
like some dirty old man.

OLIVIA

I have to ask...

And Fitz stops walking.

FITZ

No. I never. I would never. No.

And she looks at him a long beat. Judging.

FITZ (CONT'D)

You've known me for a long time.  
Longer than most. And you've seen  
me at my best and my worst. You  
know I did not fall for some young  
girl. You know there's only one  
person I love.

He's earnest. Needing her to see that he's telling the truth.

CYRUS

Mellie and Fitz are happy together.  
He'd have no reason to cheat. Liv...

She hasn't taken her eyes off Fitz, weighing him. But now:

OLIVIA

I'll handle it. Consider it handled.

She smiles. Fitz smiles back.

FITZ

You should come back to the White  
House. We need you on our side.

OLIVIA

I like working for myself. But I've  
never left your side.

And she means it. Cyrus claps them both on the back.

CYRUS

The old team back together.

33 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES OFFICE - DAY

33

Harrison and Quinn work on their computers. Olivia moves past the door, turns and comes back.

OLIVIA

Where are we?

HARRISON

Waiting for forensics on the gun to come in.

Abby flies in. She does a little dance.

ABBY

Paige is a whore! She was screwing some guy named Tom Pierson! She canceled on the embassy party to meet up with him. We have another viable suspect! Cause Paige is a whore!

(off their looks)

And now I realize that calling a dead person a whore is inappropriate. I'm just gonna...run down Pierson, see if I can make something stick.

And she goes. Olivia looks at Quinn.

OLIVIA

Quinn. I need you find out everything you can about a Julia Tannen. You have 30 minutes and then I need you to come with me.

And Olivia's gone. Quinn looks at Harrison.

HARRISON

Impress her.

And Quinn is off.

34 EXT. PARK - DAY

34

Quinn stands in the park with Olivia. Olivia's watching people walk their dogs. Looking for someone.

QUINN

Can I ask what we're...?

OLIVIA

You are acting as my witness. Just stay by my side, don't say anything.

34

CONTINUED:

34

Finally, she spots a young woman walking a puppy. JULIA TANNEN (27). She walks up to her, Quinn close behind.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Cute dog. A Lab?

JULIA

Yeah. His name's Thomas Jefferson. Which is lame, I know, but he's very Presidential. Aren't you, TJ?

Julia beams at the puppy. Olivia's voice is even, professional and devoid of any warmth.

OLIVIA

Julia. It would be a mistake to think that there will be no consequences to you telling lies about the President.

Julia stiffens. Quinn looks at Olivia, surprised.

JULIA

Who are you?

OLIVIA

My name is Olivia Price. And I want to be clear that I'm not here in any official capacity. I'm here as a concerned citizen.

JULIA

What do you want?

OLIVIA

I want to warn you. Because you seem like a fine person. So you should know what could happen. It could become hard for you to find employment, your face would be everywhere, people would associate you with a sex scandal. All kinds of information about you could easily become available to the press. For example, you've had 22 sexual partners? That we know of. Also there's that ugly bout of gonorrhea. And your family...Your mother's mental illness. A psychotic break? 2 years in Bedford Hospital? I bet that's private. She's runs a daycare now, right?

(CONTINUED)

34

CONTINUED: (2)

34

Julia's tearing up, beginning to shake.

JULIA

He said he loved me. He gave me  
this dog.

OLIVIA

See, it's those kind of lies that  
could hurt you if you said them to  
other people. People not as nice as  
me. -- I'll give you some free  
advice. Hand in your resignation.  
Then pack up your dog and your things,  
get in your car and go. Find a small  
city. Minneapolis, maybe. Or Denver.  
Get a little job, meet a boring boy,  
make some friends. Because, in this  
town? Your career is over. You are  
done.

JULIA

Why are you doing this to me? I'm a  
good person.

OLIVIA

You know who was also a good person?  
Monica Lewinsky. And she was telling  
the truth. But she still got  
destroyed.

Julia grabs her dog's leash, hurries away. Quinn stands  
there, shell-shocked. Olivia looks at her.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

If you get subpoenaed in front of a  
grand jury, you can testify as an  
officer of the court that I was  
working on my own, I didn't blackmail  
or threaten her. If you don't get  
subpoenaed, this never happened.

And she heads out of the park. It takes Quinn a moment to  
follow her. Up ahead, Olivia dials her cell.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

(into the phone)  
It's handled.

She hangs up. And we realize she looks sick to her stomach.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

35 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES LADIES ROOM - DAY

35

Olivia enters. Peers under the stalls. Quinn's feet are visible. The sounds of sniffing are audible.

OLIVIA  
Are you crying?

QUINN (O.S.)  
No.

OLIVIA  
Yes, you are.

QUINN (O.S.)  
I'm not.

OLIVIA  
You know my one rule. No lying.

The stall door opens. Quinn comes out, wiping her face.

QUINN  
Fine. I'm crying.

OLIVIA  
Well...don't do that.

Olivia turns to go. And Quinn gets brave.

QUINN  
Why did you hire me?

OLIVIA  
What?

QUINN  
Why me? What about me made you feel like I was a person you wanted by your side when you decimated a girl walking her dog?

Olivia examines her.

OLIVIA  
You went to Yale Law School.

QUINN  
So?

Quinn shifts, uncomfortable.

(CONTINUED)



OLIVIA

Before that, you were at Indiana State. And before that, you did two years at Smithville Community College. How'd you get to Yale?

QUINN

I...I worked hard.

OLIVIA

This is your one chance, Quinn. How'd you get to Yale?

QUINN

Why do you keep asking me that?

OLIVIA

Because your resume is a lie. There is a Quinn Rielly who went to Yale Law but she's working in New York right now. Your name is Quinn McKee. I'm guessing you told the lie because a girl like you, a girl with a state school law degree, whose dad is in jail, whose mother is on welfare, a girl who's nobody from nowhere couldn't catch a break in the high powered halls of DC.

QUINN

And you still wanted to hire me?

OLIVIA

It's why I hired you. Hundreds of applicants, all of them with fancy pedigrees and then there's you, who couldn't catch a break. Not a rich kid, not even a middle class kid. You come from trash. -- I fix things, Quinn. It's who I am. You? Need fixing. And I trust my gut, my gut is everything and my gut tells me you're a fighter. You walked away from home and you never looked back. Your hands aren't soft. And this job, it's not for the weak and it's not for the weary. So toughen up. You don't cry here. You don't cry in this job until all is lost. You don't cry when you're in the middle of this job and there's still hope. So wipe your tears and let's get back to work.

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

Olivia grabs some paper towels and holds them out to Quinn.

QUINN

How did you find out?

OLIVIA

Abby's good at her job. And rich kids get their teeth fixed. And I come from trash too.

Quinn takes the paper towels. Olivia leaves. Quinn stands there a beat. Then she wipes her tears and heads out.

36 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY

36

Olivia stands in front of the bank of TVs that make up one of her walls. They're all on, sound off. Except for one. On one, live footage of the President plays. He heads from his helicopter, waving and smiling for the press. Holding Mellie's hand. Cyrus is with them. A REPORTER speaks.

REPORTER

The President and the First Lady are just now returning to the White House where tonight they will be hosting a State Dinner for President Sarkozy and the French First Lady...

She eyes the image. Unsettled. Grabs her cell, dials.

OLIVIA

Put him on. I just need a second.

And on the TV screen, we can see Cyrus handing the President his cell phone.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Did you buy her a dog?

We can see the President's lips moving on the TV but we hear him in Liv's phone.

FITZ

What?

OLIVIA

Just answer the question.

FITZ

No. Of course not. Why do you ask?

36

CONTINUED:

36

OLIVIA

Do me a favor. Turn your head a little to the left.

And he does. So she can now see his full face on the TV screen. She gets close to the screen, stares into his eyes.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Okay. Sorry. Forget I asked.

And she hangs up. On TV, Fitz hangs up. Olivia nods to herself. Reassured. Stephen comes in.

STEPHEN

How big are we?

OLIVIA

Sully's on the crawl on the big three cable news stations. All over Drudge. Networks haven't got it but the nightly news is still a few hours away.

STEPHEN

I've had my ear to the ground. Diane Sawyer's sniffing. Anybody give it a logo yet?

OLIVIA

Not yet.

STEPHEN

Good. We're not big until we're logo big.

Abby enters with Harrison.

ABBY

I've got good, I've got bad, I've got ugly. The Good: Paige was sleeping with Tom Pierson. Bad: he has an airtight alibi. He was working as a bouncer at a club at the time of the murder. 100 witnesses. Ugly? Tom claims Sully KNEW he was sleeping with his girlfriend. Which gives Sully motive.

HARRISON

Even uglier: The ballistics on the gun used in the murder match the type of gun Sully owned. Which gives Sully means.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

OLIVIA

Dammit!

And Olivia heads out of her office.

37 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES/HARRISON'S OFFICE - DAY

37

Olivia storms in, Stephen and Abby right behind her. Sully's sitting on the sofa, he looks up surprised.

OLIVIA

Did you know Paige was sleeping with Tom Pierson?

SULLY

What?

OLIVIA

DID YOU KNOW?!

SULLY

Hey, I hired you. You can't yell at-

STEPHEN

Yes, she can. She can do whatever the hell she wants because if she doesn't you are definitely going to jail. You might go to jail anyway but you're definitely going if you don't answer her questions. My guess is 20 years but if the DA gets fancy, a life sentence is a possibility. Is that what you want?

Sully is cowed.

OLIVIA

Did you know that Paige was sleeping with Tom Pierson?

Sully pauses a long time. Then:

SULLY

Yeah. Yeah, I knew.

And Abby and Stephen sigh, so disappointed. Olivia looks at her watch.

OLIVIA

Okay, we don't have a lot of time before the DA puts out an arrest warrant.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Stephen, have Harrison and Quinn draft a statement. Use the words "war hero" and "decorated by the President" as many times as possible. Abby, work the phones and get me five soldiers, preferably with bars on their uniforms, who are willing to attest to Sully's heroism and kindness on the record. Mr. Sinclair, I'm going to give you the names of some very fine defense attorneys and-

SULLY

Wait, wait, I knew. But I didn't kill her. I know what you think, I know what it looks like. But I did not kill Paige. Paige used to, she slept around a lot before...This guy, this Tom...I would have forgiven her. I did not kill her. You have to believe me.

OLIVIA

Sully, there's not a lot I can-

SULLY

I'm a soldier. I've killed. Dozens of men. Sometimes by tossing a grenade but other times...I've looked into the faces of men as I killed them. I know what it means to take a life. I couldn't do that...I don't even know how a person could do that to someone they loved. I loved Paige. She was my best friend. She knew me, truly knew me like no one ever has. She was my best friend. I didn't kill her.

And he's earnest and open and in so much pain. Off Olivia...

38 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY

38

Olivia comes in with Stephen and Abby.

OLIVIA

Go find somebody, ANYBODY, who can say they saw Sully at the time of the murder. Make his alibi stick.

(CONTINUED)

38

CONTINUED:

38

ABBY

Liv-

OLIVIA

I believe him. Abby, I believe him.  
Go make his alibi stick.

Huck comes in. Shuts the door behind him.

STEPHEN

I'll get the car.

OLIVIA

In a minute. Huck, did you talk to  
my guy?

HUCK

Yeah.

OLIVIA

You got it?

HUCK

I got it.

STEPHEN

What?

And Huck produces a small velvet box. Sets it on the desk.

OLIVIA

Open it.

Stephen does. A selection of rings gleam up at him.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Three are antique, the rest are new.  
Clarity, cut and color are all  
excellent. He's offering you a  
payment plan and a 30% discount  
because I got him out of a bind once.  
You pick the one you like and we'll  
send the rest back.

STEPHEN

They're engagement rings.

OLIVIA

Yes.

STEPHEN

They're engagement rings.

(CONTINUED)

OLIVIA  
For getting engaged.

STEPHEN  
They're engage-

OLIVIA  
STEPHEN. You have a reservation. 8  
pm. Chez Henri. Best table. Huck  
already called Georgia, she's meeting  
you there. Pick a ring. Marry the  
girl. Be normal.

STEPHEN  
You can't just...you're bullying me.

OLIVIA  
Georgia gave you six months to propose  
or she was walking out.

STEPHEN  
She was bullying me too.

OLIVIA  
I've known you since law school.  
And since I met you, you've dated a  
series of women I can only describe  
as trashy and too young for you and  
most of all stupid. Georgia is funny  
and fun and old enough and brilliant,  
and she loves you and your six months  
is up and you know you want to marry  
her, we all know you want to marry  
her, so pick a damned ring already  
so you can go find an alibi for Sully  
Sinclair!

Stephen is quiet. Then, grudgingly, he points at a ring.

STEPHEN  
She'll like this one.

HUCK  
Excellent choice.

STEPHEN  
Your boss is a bully.

But he's beaming. He heads out with Huck. Abby hangs back  
until he's gone. Looks at Olivia, mournful.

ABBY  
I need the speech.

38 CONTINUED: (3)

38

Olivia comes to stand right in front of Abby. Patient.

OLIVIA  
(the millionth time)  
Stephen is not the man for you.  
Your love for him is misguided and  
will only lead to humiliation and  
pain. If you were to confess your  
love, it would only lead to  
humiliation and pain. If you were  
to sleep with Stephen, it would only  
lead to humiliation and pain. You  
are an amazing beautiful strong woman  
and someday you are going to meet a  
man who gets that. He is the right  
man for Georgia. But for you?

ABBY  
Humiliation and pain.

OLIVIA  
Exactly.

ABBY  
Thank you. I needed that.

She's so sad. Olivia hugs her. Feeling for her.

OLIVIA  
Boys are stupid.

39 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES LOBBY - DAY

39

Olivia heads into the lobby. To the sound of arguing. A nervous Quinn blocks Julia who is trying to get past her.

JULIA  
I want to see her!

QUINN  
She's not available-

JULIA  
Let me through-

OLIVIA  
Julia.

Quinn and Julia both turn to see Olivia. Julia moves to her. Desperate and emotional.

JULIA  
I want you to give him a message.



39 CONTINUED:

39

OLIVIA  
That's not appropriate.

JULIA  
Not appropriate? Not appropriate?  
You came to me. You came to me and  
I know he sent you, I know you can  
get him a message-

OLIVIA  
This conversation is over. Please  
leave.

Olivia presses the elevator button.

JULIA  
I quit my job, okay? I did it. Now  
please, give him a message-

The elevator arrives. Olivia holds open the door.

OLIVIA  
I will call security.

And Julia gets on the elevator. Olivia leans in, presses  
the button for the first floor. As the door close...

JULIA  
I wasn't lying! You hear me! I  
wasn't lying! I wasn't-

And the doors close. Olivia breathes. Then she turns to  
say something to Quinn. But she never gets to say it because  
the other elevator dings. Opens. David is there, with  
homicide detective Wally and a few uniformed cops.

DAVID  
Time's up, Liv.

OLIVIA  
I have 40 minutes.

DAVID  
Fine. Forty minutes. And then I  
want Sully Sinclair in handcuffs.

Olivia sighs. Points at the men, stern.

OLIVIA  
You stay out here. Nobody crosses  
that doorway.

She turns to Quinn, speaks low.

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Get Abby on the phone, tell her we've  
been invaded. Tell her time is up.

40 EXT. MATTY'S PUB - DAY

40

Stephen waits outside the bar. He's staring up at something.  
Abby comes out of the bar, hanging up her cell.

ABBY

I showed Sully's picture to everyone  
in the bar. No one saw him the night  
of the murder. And Liv's got cops  
in the lobby. He's finished.

But Stephen's staring up. An odd smile on his face.

STEPHEN

Maybe not.

And he points. Abby follows his finger. And sees that he  
is pointing at a bank. There's a security camera there,  
pointing down at the street.

41 INT. BANK SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

41

Stephen and Abby stand in the small office. HOWIE (50s)  
sits with his back to a bank of video cameras. Arms folded.  
They're waiting. And then Harrison hurries in.

HARRISON

I have five hundred dollars in cash  
and a pizza.

ABBY

Howie, meet your five hundred dollars  
and your pizza.

HOWIE

Deep dish, sausage and mushroom?

HARRISON

Yeah.

HOWIE

Show me.

Harrison opens the box, shows Howie the pizza. Howie nods,  
takes the cash and counts it. Stephen looks at his watch.

STEPHEN

We have a ticking clock here, Howie-

41 CONTINUED:

41

                                  HOWIE  
                                  I'm counting.

Finally Howie finishes counting the money. Then he turns back to his video monitors.

                                  HOWIE (CONT'D)  
                                  Now, what do you wanna see?

                                  ABBY  
                                  Last night. Between 10 and midnight.  
                                  The bank camera that points northeast,  
                                  towards Matty's Pub. Speed through...

Howie does. And then Abby points.

                                  ABBY (CONT'D)  
                                  Stop! Right there.

                                  HARRISON  
                                  Is that...Sully?

They stare at the monitors a beat. A little stunned.

                                  STEPHEN  
                                  We're going to need a copy of that.

42 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES/HARRISON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

42

Sully is there, pacing. Abby, Stephen and Olivia enter.

                                  OLIVIA  
                                  We don't have a lot of time. The  
                                  police are here.

                                  SULLY  
                                  They're here? How did they know  
                                  where I was?

                                  OLIVIA  
                                  I called them.

                                  SULLY  
                                  You called-

                                  OLIVIA  
                                  I gave my word to the US Attorney to  
                                  deliver you in 18 hours. We have  
                                  four minutes on the clock. So I  
                                  need you to listen.

Olivia nods at Abby who moves to the DVD player and pops in a disc.

42 CONTINUED:

42

SULLY

What's going on?

OLIVIA

We were able to verify your alibi.

SULLY

You were. That's good, right?

But he looks wary.

OLIVIA

Sully, you're the most decorated soldier since the Vietnam War. You come from a family of soldiers. You make your living giving speeches for the conservative right. And you've said it over and over again: Paige was your best friend. Not your lover. Your best friend.

Abby hits play. And on the tape, we see security camera footage of Sully walking alone. And then a man approaching him. They greet each other with a long, intimate kiss and then head away together. Olivia looks at Sully. He stares into space. Not wanting to watch.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Coming from where you come from, being who you are, being a gay soldier isn't something you feel you can tell anyone. But Paige knew, didn't she? She was your best friend. She knew you were gay, the two of you had a deal.

SULLY

You can't show that tape to anyone.

OLIVIA

I need the name of the man you were kissing.

SULLY

No. You can't show the tape, you can't have a name.

OLIVIA

It's your alibi.

SULLY

No. I'm not...you can't tell people that I'm gay. I'm a hero.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

42

ABBY

The police have a warrant for your arrest. All due respect, being gay is no big deal compared to that.

SULLY

No. I'm a hero. I honor the uniform.

OLIVIA

Sully-

SULLY

I HONOR THE UNIFORM.

He's intense, insistent. Olivia leans in.

OLIVIA

Sully? Look at me. This is who you are. This is your alibi. Let us help you.

STEPHEN

Come on, Sully...

And Sully hesitates. Then:

SULLY

No.

And he gets up and heads out.

OLIVIA

Sully...

43 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

43

Sully strides into the lobby. Olivia, Abby and Stephen follow. David and Wally wait there with a slew of police.

WALLY

Sullivan Sinclair, you have the right to remain silent, if you give up that right...

And Sully is handcuffed. Eyes on Olivia the whole time.

44 INT. PRICE AND ASSOCIATES WAR ROOM - NIGHT

44

Quinn gets her purse, grabs her coat. Huck comes in.

HUCK

You seen Olivia?

44 CONTINUED:

44

QUINN

Sully was just arrested. Olivia  
went to the police station.

HUCK

Oh...

He stands there, unsure.

QUINN

What's up? I'm on my way there...

HUCK

I got a strange call. Some girl  
named Julia Tannen?

QUINN

What about her?

HUCK

She's in the hospital. She tried to  
kill herself.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

45 INT. POLICE STATION HOLDING - NIGHT 45

We're on Sully as he's photographed for his arrest. Facing forward. Flash. Turned to the side. FLASH. His face blank.

46 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT 46

Abby comes in, meets up with Stephen, Harrison and Olivia. Stephen's on the phone.

ABBY

Reporters are starting to gather outside.

OLIVIA

Crap.

Stephen hangs up his cell.

STEPHEN

Connors is on his way. He's not great but he's the best defense attorney I could find at this hour.

ABBY

What do we do?

OLIVIA

His entire public image, his entire *self-image*, is built on being a conservative. If he won't let us use the alibi...

HARRISON

Can we leak it?

OLIVIA

He's our client. We have to do what he wants. -- I hate this.

Olivia's cell beeps. She checks the text. Her face changes.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I have to go.

HARRISON

Now?

OLIVIA

It's after six.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

They won't arraign him until morning.  
I'll be back. Get in to see Sully.  
Don't let him talk to anyone but us.

She heads out. Harrison heads for the officer at the desk.  
Stephen checks his watch.

STEPHEN

Georgia's gonna be waiting at Chez  
Henri. I could cancel...

ABBY

Harrison's a lawyer, he'll get me in  
to see Sully. Go.  
(off his hesitation)  
GO.

STEPHEN

Thanks.

ABBY

Good luck.

And he heads out. Abby watches him go, a little dejected.

47 INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

47

Quinn sits with Julia, who sleeps. She looks up to see Olivia  
striding down the hall. She gets up, comes out.

QUINN

I didn't know what to do. I thought  
you'd want me to stay with her so...

OLIVIA

What happened?

QUINN

She slashed her wrists.

OLIVIA

Any press sniffing around?

QUINN

No. No one. One of the nurses told  
me her dad's flying in. He'll be  
here in the morning.

OLIVIA

Okay. She hasn't spoken to anyone,  
no nurses or doctors about...anything?

(CONTINUED)



47 CONTINUED:

47

QUINN

Just to me.

OLIVIA

Good.

She turns to go. Quinn steps forward.

QUINN

Olivia. You said to trust your gut.  
My gut says she's telling the truth.

OLIVIA

She's not.

QUINN

How do you-

OLIVIA

Because I know the President.

QUINN

Okay, it's just...she was going on  
and on about how there's this little  
secret room off the Oval Office where  
they'd meet and I've read about the  
White House, there is a little room-

OLIVIA

If you read it, she read it. People  
are crazy, they get fixated on famous  
people, they stalk them-

QUINN

But I don't think she's crazy.

Olivia pauses.

OLIVIA

Tell me why.

QUINN

Okay. She tried to kill herself but  
she didn't want to die. She called  
you right after she did it. Because  
she wanted him to find out she was  
hurt and come see her. She thought  
he would do that.

OLIVIA

Quinn-

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

QUINN

She was going on and on about how she thought he'd come and call her "Sweet Baby" and everything would be fine-

OLIVIA

What?

Olivia's frozen.

QUINN

What?

OLIVIA

What did you say?

QUINN

That he'd come if she was hurt...

OLIVIA

And call her "Sweet Baby."

QUINN

Yes. And I was just thinking that if she-

But Olivia is already walking away. Quinn stands there. Then she heads back in to sit by Julia's bed.

48 INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

48

An AIDE ushers Olivia into the Oval Office. Fitz isn't there.

OLIVIA

Where is he?

The Aide presses a finger to her headset.

AIDE

POTUS is on the move. It'll just be one moment.

She leaves, closing the door. Olivia stands there. Her cell rings.

OLIVIA

Stephen? I can't talk now. -- What's wrong? -- Okay, I'll be there. I'm coming. -- Maybe half an hour. -- Because I'm doing something. I'll be there. I have to go.

48

CONTINUED:

48

She hangs up. Just stands there. And then the door opens, Fitz strides in followed by Cyrus and two aides. They're in tuxedos. Fitz beams when he sees her.

FITZ

Livvie! This is a surprise.

Olivia says nothing. Just looks at him. And Fitz's smile fades. They stare at one another.

FITZ (CONT'D)

We're going to need the room, please.

Cyrus is confused but he can tell this isn't good.

CYRUS

Sir, you have to give the toast to the President of France in ten minutes, maybe you can do this at another-

FITZ

We need the room.

And Fitz and Olivia stand frozen until Cyrus and the Aides have cleared the room. When they hear the door close:

FITZ (CONT'D)

Livvie-

And Olivia is flying across the room at him. Hitting his chest, shoving him, slapping his face. Fury and energy propelling her as she hollers:

OLIVIA

Sweet baby? Sweet baby? SWEET BABY?!

And he doesn't fight her back, he just uses his hands to hold her off. But finally, Olivia lands one good punch. Right to Fitz's face. His nose bloodies. And then she runs out of energy. She stands there, breathing in and out. So incredibly hurt.

FITZ

You left me.

OLIVIA

BECAUSE YOU ARE MARRIED! Because you said you wanted to try to dedicate yourself to your marriage!

(MORE)

48

CONTINUED: (2)

48

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Because you're the leader of the free world and I wanted you to be a better man, I wanted you to be the man I campaigned for, helped get elected, VOTED FOR!

Fitz crosses to her. She backs away.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Don't touch me. Don't you dare touch me. Don't you...

But he's touching her. Taking her face in his hands. Kissing her. She leans into him a beat. Then she shoves him back.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Did you give her that dog?

FITZ

Livvie-

OLIVIA

Did you give her that dog?

Fitz doesn't say anything. He just moves in again.

FITZ

I love you.

OLIVIA

Shut up! I believed you! You clouded my judgment! You made me mistrust my gut because I wanted to believe you! I destroyed that girl! She tried to kill herself!

The door opens, Cyrus enters.

CYRUS

I just want to say that we can hear you screaming from out-

And he pauses. Because Fitz has turned towards him and Cyrus can see his bloody nose. Blood's now dripping onto his shirt. And Cyrus goes from casual to official in an instant.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Mr. President, go to the residence and change your shirt. I'll send up the medic.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (3)

48

FITZ

Cy, she didn't meant to, it was an accident-

CYRUS

GO TO THE RESIDENCE AND CHANGE YOUR SHIRT!

And Fitz, with one last glance at Olivia, leaves by the residence door. Olivia and Cyrus are alone. He's staring at her the way you stare at a strange animal unlike any you've ever seen.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

You attacked the President of the United States. You realize that's a federal offense. I could have the Secret Service take you into custody.

OLIVIA

And what will you tell the public? That the President's mistress beat him up? You do that, Cyrus. Go ahead.

CYRUS

Mother of God.

And it's clear from Cyrus' face that he's shocked. He looks at her, feeling sorry for her. And she realizes...

OLIVIA

You didn't know. He tells you everything...

CYRUS

He didn't tell me this.

OLIVIA

Because it didn't matter enough.

And Olivia strides past him, out of the Oval Office. Cyrus stands there. Taking it in.

CYRUS

Mother of God.

49 INT. CHEZ HENRI - NIGHT

49

An elegant busy French restaurant. Olivia enters, still a little frazzled but together. Goes to the hostess.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

OLIVIA  
Can you tell me what table-

STEPHEN  
Liv-

Stephen's peering at her from the coat check room.

OLIVIA  
Never mind.

And she heads over to him.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
What are you...you're in a coat  
closet. What do you need, did you  
forget the ring or something-

STEPHEN  
I have the ring.

But he looks just sick with fear and panic. So Olivia's  
tender with him.

OLIVIA  
You can do this.

STEPHEN  
I don't think I can.

OLIVIA  
Tell me.

STEPHEN  
What if...what if I mess it up?  
What if I marry her and I cheat or  
she gets bored with me or...  
(struggling)  
What if she doesn't love me enough?  
I'm not a good guy, Livvie. What if  
she leaves me?

And that was incredibly hard for him to say. Olivia takes  
his hands in hers. Eyes on his.

OLIVIA  
I gotta trust my gut. And my gut's  
what?

STEPHEN  
Never wrong.

49 CONTINUED: (2)

49

OLIVIA

Never wrong. And my gut tells me that she's in this. She's in this with you. And if it doesn't work, it doesn't work. But you have to try. Because if you try, if you leap and you try and it doesn't work out...it's not on you.

And he's starting to relax.

STEPHEN

It's not on me.

OLIVIA

You can do this.

STEPHEN

Okay, okay. I can do this.

OLIVIA

You can do this. Go. Be happy. Get some normal.

He kisses her cheek. And then he heads out. And Olivia peers out of the coat closet to watch as Stephen strides through the restaurant to a table where GEORGIA (30s), a pretty sweet woman, sits. As Stephen gets down on one knee. Pulls out a ring. As he speaks, passionately but nervously. And then Georgia squeals and kisses Stephen and he puts a ring on her finger. As the whole restaurant applauds.

And then, as Stephen beams with happiness, Olivia ducks back out of sight. And then alone in the coat check room, Olivia starts to cry. Really cry. Painful gut-wrenching sobs. Stephen's joy making her heartbreak so much more present. She allows herself just a moment. And then she pulls herself together, sucks her tears back in and heads out.

50 INT. JULIA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

50

Quinn sits by a sleeping Julia's bed. She looks up. Harrison comes in.

QUINN

What are you doing here?

HARRISON

Liv called. She said you might need someone to relieve you. -- Who's the girl?

50

CONTINUED:

50

QUINN

I'm not...I don't think I'm supposed to tell you.

HARRISON

Okay.

He sits down. Quinn looks at him a beat.

QUINN

So...Sully's innocent. He didn't kill Paige?

HARRISON

Yes.

QUINN

Then who did?

HARRISON

Doesn't matter. I mean, it *matters*. Just not to us. All that matters to us is Sully. That's the job.

A beat.

QUINN

You said we were the good guys.

HARRISON

We are.

QUINN

Really? I mean...is Olivia? Is she one of the good guys?

HARRISON

No.

(off her disappointment)

I was a paralegal. Olivia found me, hired me and paid my way through law school. She's not one of the good guys. She's the best guy.

Quinn takes that in. Harrison tilts his head, measuring her temperature. Then gently:

HARRISON (CONT'D)

It's not enough to say it. You gotta believe it.

QUINN

Gladiators. In suits.

(CONTINUED)



50 CONTINUED: (2)

50

HARRISON

That's what I'm talking 'bout.

And they share a smile.

51 INT. HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

51

Abby sits with Sully. Sully is stone-faced, not looking at them. Olivia rounds the corner and an officer lets her into the cell. Abby approaches.

ABBY

He's gone all military on us. He won't talk.

OLIVIA

Give us a minute.

Abby heads out. Olivia sits down beside Sully. He won't look at her.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Sully, I saw that kiss. You love that man. Whoever he is. You love him. You've been living with a secret for really long time. I know what that's like. I honestly do. And you think you're doing it for the right reasons. You think you're doing it for your country and for the people who look up to you. But the thing is, who you are, who you choose to love, that shouldn't be a secret. It shouldn't have to be a secret. Should it?

Sully doesn't say anything. But he's listening.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

We may never know who killed Paige. But this isn't about you not going to jail for Paige's murder. This is about you not living a lie. Not hiding. This is about you standing up and being who you are. That's honorable. That's brave. That's heroic. And that's who you are, Sully. You're a hero. You fought a war and you were braver than I can ever imagine being. This is just another war. For every gay person who ever wore a uniform. Be brave now.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

A long, long beat. And then just as Olivia's giving up, just as she's standing...Sully looks up at her.

SULLY

John Latimer. That's his name. And I do. Love him. John Latimer.

52 EXT. VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL - DAY

52

A cadre of reporters have gathered. Cameras and lights. And in front of them all stands Sully Sinclair in a full dress military uniform. Calm. Confident. Strong. A few soldiers stand with him.

SULLY

I am honored to have served my country. I am honored to have been injured serving my country. And most importantly, I am honored to be a gay man who served my country.

It's a moment. A victory. Flashbulbs go off. Questions are shouted. The press goes crazy. And we move through the crowd to find, standing near the back...Olivia, Harrison, Abby, Stephen and Quinn. Watching it all. Proud.

OLIVIA

Good work.

ABBY

The other soldiers are a nice touch.

STEPHEN

You have good ideas.

He slings an arm around her. And Abby breathes him in. Olivia moves over to where David stands watching the press conference. Hands him a thick envelope.

OLIVIA

That's everything we gathered on Paige's murder. If it helps.

Grudging, David takes it. Then, a little too confident...

DAVID

Don't worry, my guys will catch the killer.

OLIVIA

I hope so. For Sully's sake.

Harrison looks at Quinn. Checking her out.

52 CONTINUED:

52

HARRISON

Can I buy you dinner tonight?

QUINN

No.

Olivia looks up. Sees Cyrus. Standing a little ways off from the crowd. His Secret Service agent near his side. She moves to him.

OLIVIA

What.

CYRUS

He wants to see you.

OLIVIA

Tell him to go to hell.

CYRUS

I'm just the messenger.

And he starts to move away. But Olivia stops him with:

OLIVIA

Cyrus? You tell him that he better hope to God Julia Tannen doesn't want to come forward with her story. Because she just became my client.

Cyrus freezes. The color draining from his face. And Olivia is moving forward, disappearing into the crowd of reporters. A gladiator in a suit.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW